PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES/ AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Model Code of Conduct is applicable from the announcement of elections till the completion of election. Under the Model Code, no new schemes can be launched and funds cannot be released for their execution. There is no bar to release of funds for the ongoing schemes.

As all election related matters are the concern of the Election Commission of India, they are the appropriate authority to make any changes in such matters.

Statistics on inequalities of Income

893. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has statistics relating to inequalities of income;

(b) if so, the gap between haves and have nots since 1991; and

(c) whether the gap has widened since the inception of structural reforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) Statistics relating to inequality in income are not collected. However, data on consumption expenditure are available, which can be used to assess inequalities. The standard method of measurement of inequality is the Lorenz Ratio. This ratio ranges between zero and unity. A high value of the Lorenz Ratio is indicative of greater inequality. From the National Sample Survey data on Consumer Expenditure the

inequality in the distribution of per capita consumption can be measured by Lorenz Ratio. These have been computer separately in rural and urban areas since 1990-91 and are" given in the enclosed statement, *(see* below) For the seven year period 1990-91 to 1997, for which the consumer expenditure data are available from various surveys of the National Sample Survey Organisation, the Lorenz Ratios in rural areas range from 0.272 to 0.298 and in urban areas from 0.330 to 0.367.

Statement

Lorenz Ratio of Per Capita Consumption

Year/ Round			Lorenz Ratio Rural	Urban
1. July	1990-June (46th)	91	0.2720	0.3305
2. July	1991-Dec. (47th)	91	0.2873	0.3673
3. Jan.	1992-Dec. (48th)	92	0.2870	0.3450
4. July	1993-June (50th)	94	0.2819	0.3393
5. July	1994-June (51st)	95	0.2976	0.3662
6. July	1995-June (52nd)	96	0.2762	0.3583
7. Jan.	1997-Dec. (53rd)	97	0.2900	0.3500

NB: Estimated from National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure of the year.